

## **Part 5**

### **Libel**

#### **76-9-504 Fair reporting privilege of newspaper or broadcasting station personnel as to public official proceedings -- Privilege as to defamatory matter not subject to censorship.**

No reporter, editor, or proprietor of any newspaper, and no owner, licensee, or operator of a visual or sound radio broadcasting station, or network of stations, nor the agents or employees of a newspaper or broadcasting station, is liable to any prosecution for a fair and true report or broadcast of any judicial, legislative, or other public official proceedings, or of any statement, speech, argument, or debate in course of the same, except upon proof of malice in making the report, which shall not be implied from the mere fact of publication. In no event shall any owner, licensee, or operator of a visual or sound radio broadcasting station or network of stations, or the agents or employees thereof, be liable for prosecution for any defamatory matter or statement published or uttered in such radio or television broadcast where the publication cannot be censored by reason of the provisions of federal statute or the regulations of the federal communications commission.

Enacted by Chapter 196, 1973 General Session

#### **76-9-505 Libelous matter not privileged.**

Libelous remarks or comments connected with matter privileged by the next preceding section receive no privilege by reason of their being so connected.

Enacted by Chapter 196, 1973 General Session

#### **76-9-506 Privilege as to communications between interested persons.**

A communication made to a person interested in the communication by one who is also interested, or who stands in a relation to the former as to afford a reasonable ground for supposing his motive innocent, is not presumed to be malicious, and is a privileged communication.

Enacted by Chapter 196, 1973 General Session

#### **76-9-509 Conveying false or libelous material to newspaper or broadcasting stations.**

Any person who willfully states, conveys, delivers, or transmits, by any means whatsoever, to the manager, editor, publisher, reporter, or agent of any radio station, television station, newspaper, magazine, periodical, or serial for publication therein, any false or libelous statement concerning any person, and thereby secures actual publication of the same, is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

Enacted by Chapter 196, 1973 General Session